

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 794

By Mannis

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charlie Brakebill of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charlie Brakebill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brakebill was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional, a veteran, and former long-time administrator at the University of Tennessee whose legacy of good works continues to enrich the lives of the Volunteer family; and

WHEREAS, a farm boy from Madisonville, Charlie Brakebill enlisted in the United States Army at the age of eighteen, serving several years in Europe during World War II and continuing his post-war military service with the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, it was while stationed in Europe that Mr. Brakebill met and fell in love with Anthelnette Guillard, a French pharmacy student he met while her family was attempting to move a piano; a romance ignited between the two, but they lost touch after Mr. Brakebill departed Europe, and decades later, he found out that she had died; and

WHEREAS, after making a pilgrimage to Ms. Guillard's grave in France, Charlie Brakebill was inspired to pen a small book about their wartime relationship that he called *The Piano Love Affair*; the book was subsequently made into a short film that was featured at the Knoxville Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Brakebill joined the University of Tennessee (UT) in the early 1960s as its first full-time development director; he was part of the university's administration during what many consider its 20<sup>th</sup>-century glory years, which featured the tenures of Ed Boling, Andy Holt, and Joe Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brakebill devoted more than thirty years to serving UT, during which time he helped burnish its alumni and development programs; he retired in 1996 as vice president of Development and Alumni Affairs, and in 2011, he was duly honored for his service at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Brakebill was a staunch supporter of UT's Clarence Brown Theatre; he personally worked with and secured funding from the Hollywood director for whom the theater is named and served on the theater's advisory board for many years, having recently been designated as a board member emeritus; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Brakebill was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Joyce Brakebill; he is survived by his children, Linda Norris and Larry Brakebill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brakebill leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charlie Brakebill, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Brakebill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.